

**Field Test Program to Develop Comprehensive  
Design, Operating and Cost Data for  
Mercury Control Systems on  
Non-Scrubbed Coal-Fired Boilers**

**Quarterly Technical Report  
Reporting Period: January 1, 2004 – March 31, 2004**

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**Submitted: April 27, 2004**

**DOE Cooperative Agreement No.: DE-FC26-00NT41005**

**Report No. 41005R16**

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## ABSTRACT

With the nation's coal-burning utilities facing the possibility of tighter controls on mercury pollutants, the U.S. Department of Energy is funding projects that could offer power plant operators better ways to reduce these emissions at much lower costs.

Mercury is known to have toxic effects on the nervous systems of humans and wildlife. Although it exists only in trace amounts in coal, mercury is released when coal burns and can accumulate on land and in water. In water, bacteria transform the metal into methylmercury, the most hazardous form of the metal. Methylmercury can collect in fish and marine mammals in concentrations hundreds of thousands times higher than the levels in surrounding waters.

One of the goals of DOE is to develop technologies by 2005 that will be capable of cutting mercury emissions 50 to 70 percent at well under one-half of projected DOE/EPA early cost estimates. ADA Environmental Solutions (ADA-ES) is managing a project to test mercury control technologies at full scale at four different power plants from 2000 – 2003. The ADA-ES project is focused on those power plants that are not equipped with wet flue gas desulfurization systems.

ADA-ES has developed a portable system that will be tested at four different utility power plants. Each of the plants is equipped with either electrostatic precipitators or fabric filters to remove solid particles from the plant's flue gas.

ADA-ES's technology will inject a dry sorbent, such as activated carbon, which removes the mercury and makes it more susceptible to capture by the particulate control devices. A fine water mist may be sprayed into the flue gas to cool its temperature to the range where the dry sorbent is most effective.

PG&E National Energy Group is providing two test sites that fire bituminous coals and both are equipped with electrostatic precipitators and carbon/ash separation systems. Wisconsin Electric Power Company is providing a third test site that burns Powder River Basin (PRB) coal and has an electrostatic precipitator for particulate control. Alabama Power Company will host a fourth test at its Plant Gaston, which is equipped with a hot-side electrostatic precipitator and a downstream fabric filter.

During the fourteenth reporting quarter, progress was made on the project in the following areas:

### **All Test Sites**

- Final Reports for the two remaining plants are nearly complete.

### **Technology Transfer**

- There were no technology transfer activities during this reporting period.

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## **LIST OF GRAPHICAL MATERIALS**

There are no graphical materials included in this report.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

ADA-ES began work on a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Energy in October 2000 to demonstrate full-scale mercury control systems at coal-fired power plants. The project is the next step in the process of obtaining performance and cost data on full-scale utility plants for mercury control systems. Power generating companies that have entered into contracts with ADA-ES are PG&E National Energy Group, Wisconsin Electric Power Company and Alabama Power Company. During the three-year, \$6.8 million project, integrated control systems will be installed and tested at four power plants. ADA-ES is responsible for managing the project including engineering, testing, economic analysis, and information dissemination functions.

As of the fourteenth reporting quarter, field-testing has been completed at the following locations:

- Alabama Power Company Plant Gaston
- Wisconsin Electric Pleasant Prairie Power Plant
- PG&E NEG Brayton Point Station
- PG&E NEG Salem Harbor Station

## **INTRODUCTION**

Cooperative Agreement No. DE-FC26-00NT41005 was awarded to ADA-ES to demonstrate mercury control technologies on non-scrubbed coal-fired boilers. Under the contract, ADA-ES is working in partnership with PG&E National Energy Group, Wisconsin Electric Power Company, Alabama Power, and EPRI to design and engineer systems to maximize effectiveness and minimize costs to curtail mercury emissions from power plant flue gases. Reports estimate that mercury control could cost the industry from \$2 to \$5 billion per year. Much of these costs will be associated with power plants that do not have wet scrubbers as part of their air pollution control configurations. The four plants that are being evaluated during the program are typical of this type of application, which is found at 75 percent of the nearly 1,100 units that would be impacted by new regulations.

Detailed topical reports will be prepared for each site that is tested under the program. Quarterly reports will be used to provide project overviews and technology transfer information.

## **EXPERIMENTAL**

Continued data and sample analysis for the project was conducted during the fourteenth reporting quarter. Detailed results of the testing at each power plant will be provided in separate topical reports.

### **Technology Transfer**

There were no technology transfer activities during this reporting period

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The major efforts during the fourteenth reporting quarter focused on data analysis and completion of the final reports for Brayton Point and Salem Harbor power plants. Detailed results of the testing at these two remaining power plants will be provided in separate topical reports.

Refer to the Attachment for a brief synopsis of accomplishments and status.

## **CONCLUSION**

Four plants have been tested, including Pleasant Prairie, Salem Harbor, Brayton Point, and Gaston. Final topical reports for Salem Harbor and Braden Point are in preparation.

## **REFERENCES**

None this reporting period.

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

A&WMA	Air & Waste Management Association
DOE	Department of Energy
NETL	National Energy Technology Laboratory
PRB	Powder River Basin

# ATTACHMENT

## Accomplishments and Status Assessment January 1, 2004 – March 31, 2004

### General

The project is progressing on schedule without any major deviations from plan.

### Alabama Power Company's Plant Gaston

This facility was the first to be tested in the program. Prebaseline testing was completed in February 2001 and the parametric test series was performed in March 2001. The long-term test series was completed during April 2001. The test facility was decommissioned during May. The economic analysis and topical report were started in June. Ontario Hydro test results have been completed. The final report for this site was completed and submitted in May 2003.

### WEPCO Pleasant Prairie Power Plant

Sorbent screening testing was completed at Pleasant Prairie in June 2001. Equipment installations were completed in August 2001. WEPCO hosted a public site tour of the mercury control system at the end of August as part of the A&WMA Specialty Conference on Mercury Emissions. Equipment check-out was completed in September and Baseline and Parametric testing began during September 2001. Long-term testing was completed in November, and the mercury control equipment was removed during December and moved to PG&E NEG Brayton Point. The final report for this site was completed and submitted in May 2003.

### PG&E NEG Brayton Point Station

Prebaseline testing was performed at Brayton Point during June 2001. Mercury emissions measurements were made at the station during the summer of 2001 as required by the state of Massachusetts. The site was visited in July 2001 to evaluate the ductwork, port locations, equipment locations, and platform needs. Some site preparation work was done during September 2001. The mercury control equipment was received by the station in December 2001. Sorbent screening testing was performed at the site in February 2002, baseline testing was completed in June 2002, and parametric and long-term testing were completed during July 2002. Equipment decommissioning was completed by mid-August 2002.

### PG&E NEG Salem Harbor Station

Prebaseline measurements were made at Salem Harbor during February 2001. Mercury emissions measurements were made at the station during July 2001 as required by the state of Massachusetts. Injection equipment arrived at the site in late August and installation was completed in early September 2002. Boiler tuning and baseline testing was completed in September 2002. Parametric testing was performed during October 2002, and long-term testing was completed during November 2002. Equipment decommissioning was completed in early December 2002.